

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 6, 2006

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
H-218 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis:

As members representing Southeast Texas, which was affected by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, we write in regard to the Emergency Defense and Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations Bill (H.R. 4939). While we recognize the importance of paring down the supplemental bill, those reductions should come from other low-priority parts of the bill, not from the critical hurricane recovery funds needed by the people of Texas.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many of the cities and counties in Texas opened up their doors to the Katrina evacuees. Almost one month later, Texas was struck by Hurricane Rita. Even months later, Texas is still recovering from the damage and bearing lingering costs associated with these two hurricanes.

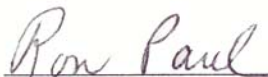
It is critical that the final language of the hurricane supplemental include an increase in the federal share of FEMA reimbursements to Texas to bring it in line with the federal share Louisiana received for Hurricane Rita. It is inequitable to provide a larger federal share to Louisiana communities than Texas communities when both suffered equally from Hurricane Rita.

Additionally, an increase cost share will not increase the cost H.R. 4939 and will help to provide the needed funds to help Southeast Texas rebuild from Hurricane Rita.

Sincerely,



Ted Poe  
Member of Congress



Ron Paul  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress